

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for diagnosing the dynamic characteristics of a lambda sensor, which is used at least intermittently for a cylinder-individual lambda control, wherein at least one actuating variable of the lambda control is detected and compared to a specifiable maximum threshold, and, if the maximum threshold is exceeded, the dynamic response of the lambda sensor is deemed insufficient with respect to the usability for the cylinder-individual lambda control.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the value of lambda of at least one cylinder is detuned by a specifiable value and it is ascertained whether the detuning by the specifiable value is reflected as offset or factor in the actuating variable of the particular controller of the lambda control.
3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein it is ascertained whether the difference or the absolute value of the difference between detuning and offset is smaller than the specifiable maximum threshold.
4. The method as recited in Claim 2 or 3, wherein the value of lambda is detuned by variation of the cylinder-individual fuel metering.
5. The method as recited in one of Claims 2 through 4, characterized by the steps:
 - detection of a suitable operating range for the cylinder-individual lambda control;
 - Monitoring of the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers and, if one or a plurality of actuating variables exceeds its maximum amount, the implementation of the following steps:
 - detection of a suitable instant for implementing the following steps;
 - buffer-storing of the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers;
 - detuning of the value of lambda of at least one cylinder by the specifiable value;
 - monitoring of the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers;
 - determination whether or not the lambda controllers are able to compensate the detuning of value of lambda, and in the event that the lambda controllers are able to do so, cancellation of the detuning, and re-initialization of the individual lambda controllers by the buffer-stored actuating variables,

otherwise the outputting of a fault signal.

6. A diagnosis device for implementing the method as recited in one of the preceding claims.